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ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE HEALTH
OF THE
COWES URBAN DISTRICT

BY

JOHN MILLS,

M.D., CH.B., M.R.C.S. (ENG.), L.R.C.P. (LOND.), D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

ISLE OF WIGHT :

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COUNTY HALL,
NEWPORT, I.W.

To the Members of the Cowes Urban District Council:—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1956.

The Birth Rate rose slightly from 13.8 to 14.0 and the Death Rate fell from 13.1 to 11.9.

The Infantile Mortality Rate rose from 4.3 to 21.2 but as the figures concerned are so small this is not of great significance.

During the year there were 34 deaths from cancer compared with 38 the previous year. This included 8 cases of cancer of the lung in males (5 the previous year). There were no deaths from cancer of the lung in females. Only 2 deaths from cancer of the breast occurred.

Heart disease was notified as the cause of death in 75 cases. This included 16 cases of coronary artery disease in males and 10 cases in females. The figure for deaths from coronary artery disease in females is the same as in the previous year but for males the figure fell from 19 to 16.

There were two deaths from motor accidents during the year but no cases of suicide.

Of the 88 samples of milk examined for the presence of tubercle bacillus none were found to be positive but 3 of the samples were found to contain *Brucella Abortus*.

During the year 203 cases of measles were notified but there were no deaths from this disease or its complications.

Only three cases of poliomyelitis were notified and there were no deaths.

One case of mild scarlet fever occurred but there were no cases of diphtheria, enteric fever, dysentery, or food poisoning.

There is a marked fall in the incidence of infectious diseases but it would be a mistake to be confident that infectious diseases are necessarily being eradicated. The growing therapeutic armamentarium, mostly in the field of antibiotics, is effective against a large range of infections which were until recently very common and in many cases fatal.

As in other fields of natural science there appears to be an optimum balance of nature with which man interferes at his peril. The old enemy is put to flight but a new one, of unknown power takes its place. It is clear that the indiscriminate, and in certain cases, unwise use of the new powerful, and incidentally expensive, antibiotics may in fact be producing new diseases or by causing the deaths of older more familiar organisms, permitting the profuse development of germs for long kept in abeyance and against which therapy, in the present state of our knowledge is comparatively helpless.

The quality of water supplied by the Isle of Wight Water Board to certain areas of the Urban District has from time to time proved unsatisfactory.

While realising the difficulties facing the Board it is a matter of supreme importance that the Cowes water supply is improved as speedily as possible.

Heavy chlorination of a doubtful water supply is not the answer. Consumers' health is made dependent on the efficacy of chlorination: if, for one reason or another the chlorination of the supply is inadequate or fails, contaminated water is consumed. It is bad to err on the opposite side and deliver into the public supply water with such a high content of residual chlorine that it is unpalatable.

The popularity of modern trailer caravans for holidays in the Island is still on the increase. The licensed sites are continuing to improve but difficulties in individual caravans arise from time to time due to verminous occupants leaving their vermin behind.

Sickness amongst holiday-makers living in caravans occasionally occurs and presents its own particular problems. Where infectious diseases occur, mostly in the case of children, the cases are usually transferred to Fairlee Hospital and infected clothing, bedding and personal effects are removed for disinfection at the Hospital.

It seems rather an anomaly that whereas premises used for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream have to be registered by the local authority, no registration is required in the case of persons selling ice-cream from barrows or other mobile shops in the streets, despite the fact that this branch of the trade is the one requiring perhaps the most supervision. A man with a cart or bicycle could obtain a bulk supply of ice-cream from a manufacturer and start off for the day. He might be dirty in person, clothing and habits, and probably has no washing facilities on his vehicle, notwithstanding that he had to be out from morning to night, handle considerable amounts of money and attend to his own bodily needs.

The defect in control ought to be met by a local bye law requiring the registration by the local authority of all food hawkers and any premises used by the hawkers for the storage of food. This would give the local authority power to refuse or cancel registration if it appears to them that the public health is likely to be endangered by the act or default of any person in relation to the quality, storage or distribution of food, or if any premises are unsatisfactory.

A great deal of attention is given now to the effect of maternal care in infancy on mental health in later life. This stresses the importance of the maternity and child wel-

fare services and especially the personal advice on mothercraft given by midwives and health visitors.

Some suffering in children is the result of deliberate cruelty by the parents : infinitely more is the result of ignorance, neglect and failure to understand the needs of young children or the responsibilities—and the joys— of parenthood.

A child may be deprived of affection, though physically not ill-treated, in its own home. Indeed, this kind of cruelty is probably much more common than the other, and may be much more damaging in its effects in later life.

Unhappy children make unhappy parents and the pattern is repeated in the next generation.

Social workers are far less ready than formerly to promote the separation of a child from his family however, inadequate the family setting might appear to be. Removal of the child or children should be regarded as a last resort and a confession—a very expensive confession—of failure.

Today the emphasis is on preventive work in the home, skilled family visiting, educational work and on strengthening, so far as is possible, the parents' sense of responsibility.

The difficulty of detecting neglect and cruelty to the pre-school child is great. How much more difficult it is to detect—let alone deal with—that other kind of cruelty, the loveless home.

The parents involved may be subnormal mentally, psychopathic, psychotic or neurotic, but emotional instability is often a greater factor than intellectual defect.

I must thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health and Housing Committees, the Public Health Inspectors and all members of the Public Health Department for their continued help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1956.

Medical Officer of Health :—

JOHN MILLS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P.
(Lond.), D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector :—

R. H. HOWARD, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector :—

J. H. TURNER, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	5,542
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1956) per rate books					5,466
Rateable value, as at 1. 4. 56.	...	...	...	...	£221,782
Sum represented by 1d. rate (1955-56)				...	£474

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

These are unchanged since the last report.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar General's Figures)	...	16,840
Live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	14.0
Comparative factor (births)	...	1.08
Comparative Birth Rate	...	15.1
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		28.8
Crude death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	...	11.9
Comparative factor (deaths)	...	0.89
Comparative death rate	...	10.6
Puerperal death rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	...	Nil
Infantile Mortality :—		
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	21.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births		21.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births		Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	34
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	Nil

BIRTHS.

The total number of live births was 236, giving a live birth rate per 1,000 living of 14.0, the corresponding rate for England and Wales being 15.7.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths was 201 giving a death rate of 11.9 per 1000 of the estimated resident population. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 21.2 per 1,000 registered live births, the rate for England and Wales being 23.8.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSE	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .	4	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	7
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—
Diabetes	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	18
Coronary disease, angina ...	16	10
Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	2
Other heart disease	18	27
Other circulatory disease	5	2
Influenza	2	—
Pneumonia	6	3
Bronchitis	11	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ...	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	5
Motor vehicle accidents ...	1	1
All other accidents	5	1
Suicide	—	—
Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
ALL CAUSES	113	88

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Your Senior Public Health Inspector has furnished the following details of the sanitary and public health inspections during the year 1956.

The departments complement of two Inspectors and a Clerk were complete until September, when the Additional Inspector resigned his appointment in order to take up a post with the City and County Borough of Canterbury. Due to the acute national shortage of inspectorate staff no Assistant was able to be recruited for the remainder of 1956, this being reflected in the figures as compared with those of past years.

This year brought the change of designation to "Public Health Inspector", and although the previous designation was an old and honourable title it led to many misconceptions as to the range and functions performed. Today these duties have broadened considerably and I sincerely hope the public will hold the new title in the same respect.

The long awaited Food Hygiene Regulations which affect the manufacture, preparation and sale of food, came into operation in January.

Food hygiene must be recognised in the food and catering industries as sound commercial practice and with the advent of this long needed legislation a new and direct approach can be made to "food handlers", but all must co-operate and play their part for statutory regulations alone cannot make persons of dirty habits clean, or reduce the number of food poisoning cases.

Slum Clearance work has been prominent in the year under review and although tedious and exacting in the statutory procedure leading up to demolition, the final clearance of these insanitary and slum properties is a worthy reward for the work entailed, making way for progress in providing decent homes for the occupiers of dwellings that lack the basic essentials for a healthy life.

The report now continues under the headings of the duties performed in this area.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS IN THE AREA.

These figures cover the entire work carried out by the Public Health Department and include all aspects and phases of the duties performed, and demanded by statute.

Number of dwelling houses surveyed. (1st. inspection)	1,079
Number of dwelling houses re-inspected. (2nd inspection)	957
Other visits and inspections. (1st. inspection.)	1,120
Other visits and inspections. (2nd inspection) ...	767
Total number of inspections and re-visits made during the year.	<u>3,923</u>

This figure is a decrease of 273 on the 1955 figures.

NOTICES SERVED.

			Intormal.	Formal.
Public Health Acts	...	...	217	16
Housing Acts	...	...	12	13
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	63	Nil
Factories Act	...	...	6	Nil
Shops Act	...	...	3	Nil

DETAILS AND NUMBERS OF INSPECTIONS.

Public Health Acts.

Houses inspected for nuisances	...	649
Office premises	...	13
Verminous premises	...	36
Other insects	...	74
Ponds, ditches and watercourses	...	15

Tents, vans, caravans and camps ...	87
Keeping of animals	6
Accumulations of refuse and provision of dustbins	32
New drainage works and existing drainage	416

Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning Enquiries. 53
Food and Drugs Act, and Food Poisoning Enquiries.

Restaurants, kiosks, canteens ...	150
Butchers	71
Fish shops	18
Fried Fish shops	15
Greengrocers	6
Grocers	53
Bakehouses	27
Ice-cream premises and vehicles ...	42
Cooked meat premises	4
Other food premises	18
Milk and Dairy Regulations ...	28
Meat Inspection	12
Unsound food	96

Informal Sampling.

Ice-cream	14
Water	286

Housing Legislation.

Repairs, overcrowding, slum clearance	362
Improvement Grants	67
Certificates of Disrepair	4

Council Housing.

Applications for Council Housing ...	167
Routine Council House inspections ...	469
Housing Management enquiries ...	201
Conditions of tenancy	159

Factories Act.

Mechanical Power	...	...	...	16
Non-mechanical Power	...	...	...	2

Smoke Abatement.	...	...	...	45
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Shops Act.	...	...	...	12
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Miscellaneous.

Meetings with owner or builder	...	...	...	46
Schools	...	...	...	10
Fairgrounds	...	...	...	6
Rodent control	...	...	...	33
Bathing establishments	...	...	...	8
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	6
Ineffectual visits	...	...	...	86
Rag Flock Act	...	...	...	3

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Members of the public, and occupiers of dwellings made a total of 384 complaints to the Public Health Offices during the year.

Details of the various nuisances detected and remedied, to the total of 444, are set out in the table below.

Doors, windows, frames, floors, sashcords repaired	...	...	...	...	67
Grates, flues, chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Gutters, roofs and rain-water pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	49
Defective and choked drains remedied	...	...	...	...	85
Vermin eradicated	...	...	...	...	23
Verminous bedding and furniture destroyed	...	...	...	...	7
Water closets and flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	37
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	18
Wall and ceiling plasters repaired	...	...	...	...	28
Sinks repaired and renewed	...	...	...	...	12
New water services provided	...	...	...	...	10

Pavings and yards repaired	...	...	...	6
Defective walls and pointing renewed	...	...	...	17
Dampness abated	...	...	...	55
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	16

RODENT CONTROL.

All rodent control work is carried out by the Rodent Officer for the Isle of Wight (Rodent Destruction) Joint Committee.

Of the 89 complaints of rodent infestations received by this office all were referred to the Rodent Officer for his attention, who has submitted the following figures for the year ending 31st March, 1957.

Total number of properties inspected resulting from notification in the Urban area	61
Total Number of inspections to Council owned properties- (Refuse tips, stores, depots, etc.)	78
Number of dwelling houses and Council houses inspected	1,387

Number of business and industrial premises inspected 601

No major infestations within the are were located.

53 minor rat and 89 minor mice infestations were dealt with.

The total number of inspections and re-visits to all types of properties for rodent control work was 2,066.

VERMIN AND INSECT CONTROL.

Fifteen complaints were received from occupiers of flea infested premises; on each occasion treatment was carried out by the department's disinfecter either by spraying with an insecticide or by the use of D.D.T. smoke generators according to the type and degree of infestation.

Domestic premises are not the only problems associated with vermin infestations. Often industrial premises call upon the help of the department. As in previous years, with the co-operation of the management and the least of publicity, large areas of floor space have been successfully treated without disrupting the works of establishments concerned.

Insects which are not classified as vermin and which the advice and assistance of the Public Health Inspector was sought included infestations of cockroaches, ants, beetles, and less common insects in which the assistance and knowledge of the British Natural History Museum was sought.

During the mid-summer months the destruction of wasp nests is a duty performed by the department, and over 60 calls for this service were made by the public. In many cases considerable structural works have to be carried out by the owners in order to expose the location of the nest.

Only two instances were found of bug infestation in dwelling houses, and in neither case was any stripping of wall paper or structural works necessary to eradicate the vermin.

The absence of bed bug infestations today is proof of the effectiveness of modern insecticides and is just a small instance of the progress made in public health during the past twenty-five years.

DRAINAGE.

The Public Health Department are responsible for the supervision, testing and compliance with building byelaws of all drainage works in relation to new buildings, and as in previous years, a high standard of workmanship and mode of construction is demanded.

The internal office procedure of all deposited plans being approved by the department has proved to be one of merit; contraventions of byelaws and other statutes enforced by your authority being discovered whilst the conversions or design of

new buildings are still in the planning stage.

416 visits were made in connection with both new and old existing drainage schemes during the year, and 93 drainage systems were subject to test.

In observing the responsibilities of maintaining public sewers, formal notices were served under Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of 13 individual properties served by the sewer. The approved works of repair were carried out by the Council.

In those areas where no main sewers are available 16 septic tanks and cesspools were emptied and cleaned by the mechanical gulley emptier which is hired from a neighbouring authority.

HOUSING.

In complying with the schedule of 110 unfit houses submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government with a stipulated programme of five years completion, action was taken by Section II of the Housing Act, 1936, for dealing with 13 individual unfit dwelling houses during the year under review.

Having prepared a list of works required, the phrase "reasonable expense" plays a prominent part in determining the fate of these houses. Restricted rents and the high costs of repairs governs the approach and decisions of most owners of this type of dwelling.

Although all owners of unfit houses have the opportunity of appearing before your Council to submit any proposals they have for repairing or retaining their property, in the years work of slum clearance no objection was raised by the respective owners who were given the opportunity to appear to oppose the subsequent demolition of their properties. The ownership of slum properties are a liability, and their useful life cycle being finished, is an accepted fact, by the majority of owners.

An abstract from the statement submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government is summarised in the following return.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

1. HOUSES DEMOLISHED OR CLOSED.

Demolished as a result of formal or informal
procedure. 2

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953.

Closed as a result of closing orders under
Section 10(1) and 11(2) 8

3. REPAIRS.

Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which
defects were remedied during the year as a
result of informal action under the Housing
and Public Health Acts 196

4. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS. FORMAL ACTION.

Housing in which defects were remedied :—

(a) By owners 3

(b) By local authorities in default of owners 13

5. HOUSING ACT, 1936. FORMAL ACTION.

Housing in which defects were remedied :—

(a) By owners 1

(b) By local authorities in default of owners 1

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

The purpose of this Act was to provide legislation to improve the conditions of properties and allow owners a proportionate increase in rent in return for works of repair and improved conditions to the property to the ultimate benefit of the tenant.

Contained within Section 26 of this Act was the procedure for a tenant on whom a "repair increase" notice was served to apply to the Council for a Certificate of Disrepair.

No applications were received during the year in this district for these Certificates, and it does appear that few owners have availed themselves of this Act to repair their houses and collect an increase in rent. From facts such as this it must be assumed that the Act does not permit a sufficient financial gain to the owner in return for the cost of repairs carried out.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

An increased number of applications for improvement grants were made over the previous year, and of the 38 applications received, 27 of them were owner/occupiers, and only 11 owners of rented houses have applied to modernize their houses for letting purposes.

The figures given below are those applicable to the scheme for the year 1956 : -

Number of preliminary applications received	...	42
Number of preliminary applications approved	...	29
Number of formal applications received	...	20
Number of formal applications approved	...	14
Total number of conversions completed and grants paid		15

(This figure includes outstanding grants for the year 1955.)

COUNCIL HOUSING.

At the completion of the year the Council were managing 657 dwellings and the duties associated with Housing Management delegated to the Public Health department have increased with the continual building programme. Approximately a third of the staff's time is spent in dealing with council housing, this, where non-technical knowledge is required, is to the detriment and expense of public health duties.

With the acceleration of Slum Clearance, the rehousing of tenants from unfit dwellings can be a problem, in order to ensure the correct approach to the life they will lead in a new council house and decent surroundings. Much criticism is often levelled at the occupiers of slum clearance houses when being moved to municipal housing estates.

Exceptional cases there may have been in the past, but, my experience of the vast majority of rehoused tenants from slum dwellings dealt with during the past years is that they prove themselves worthy of being given a council house, after years of living in conditions which do not credit this modern age.

Visits and inspections numbering 996 were carried out in respect to housing management. This comprised 469 monthly routine inspections of premises to determine their condition of cleanliness, decoration, state of repair, and observance of tenancy conditions, resulting in over 400 recommendations for repairs and redecorations being submitted to the Surveyor's Department who are responsible for all maintenance works and their supervision.

The number of visits made to new council housing applicants during 1956 was 167, involving inspection of the accommodation occupied by the applicants, where their need for rehousing is determined by applying the points system to given tables of priorities.

The number of new houses built within the Urban district for the year was made up as follows:—

Local Authority.	26 houses
Housing Association.	Nil
Private enterprise.	70 houses
	96 houses

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES.

The number of establishments which come within the definition of "food premises" within the area, which are subject to inspection and enforcement of Food and Drugs legislation by your Public Health Officers, is 286.

The total inspections to these premises for the purpose of securing clean food handling in clean conditions, are given below.

Restaurants, kiosks, canteens, dining halls	...	...	150
Butchers shops	...	...	71
Fish and Fried Fish shops	...	...	21
Greengrocers shops	...	...	6
Bakehouses	...	...	27
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	14
Grocers shops	...	...	53
Ice-cream retailers and vehicles	...	...	42
Cooked Meat shops	...	...	4

Although a determined effort by means of a survey was made to visit all food handling establishments following the introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, a complete and entirely satisfactory report was unable to be achieved.

Much detailed and initial works have still to be done in ensuring that firstly, all food handling premises comply structurally with the Regulations, and secondly, the constant education of food handlers. Only with regular and frequent visits by the Public Health Inspector will a satisfactory "bill of health" be possible.

Where holiday and seasonal catering is prevalent the enforcement of food hygiene and all its implications does create difficulties and involves a different approach to those premises catering for a constant and regular trade.

Many premises are only available and open for business during the "season" and consequently works of a structural nature are expressed by the occupiers as being impossible during the four months peak holiday period. The remaining months of the year the business is either closed or conducted on a very restricted basis and at such periods considerable reluctance is shown by some occupiers at being involved in capital expenditure.

Of the food premises generally in the district, considerable progress has been made during the year with many improvements brought about, and the standard of food hygiene and food handling raised.

Public opinion on this whole question of "clean food" is becoming more enlightened and purchasers and consumers are observant and critical of unhygienic practices. They rightly demand a standard which should at least conform to the new Regulations which is the constant aim of your Officers to achieve.

Carnivals and fun fairs where food is sold were subject to inspections. Particular attention was directed towards itinerant retailers of candy floss and toffee apples which appear to be a popular commodity at such functions.

With the full co-operation of the fair ground proprietor, who in his wanderings up and down the country had apparently met colleagues bent on similar excursions, a properly designed trailer was used for the sale of these food articles which combined all the requisites for the hygienic handling and preparation of food.

FOOD CONDEMNED AS UNFIT.

The procedure of seizure and condemnation by the magistrate of unsound food is rarely practised today, the trader being only too anxious for the opinion and help of the department, if in any doubt of the soundness or fitness for human consumption of any food.

The total amounts of food which were condemned by voluntary surrender are indicated in the statement below.

527 tins and jars of fish, fruit, vegetables, milk

and cooked meats	...	...	...	...	965 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	21 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	58 lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	...	36 lbs.
Poultry	...	...	...	...	48 lbs.
Meat and offal	...	...	...	...	114 lbs.
					1,242 lbs.

Making a total of 11 cwts. 10 lbs.

This is a reduction of nearly 50 per cent of the total foods condemned last year.

The bulk of all food surrendered and condemned in the Urban area is reserved to the multiple companies.

All condemned food and tinned goods are disposed of by burying at the refuse tip prior to which they are coloured with a dye to indicate their unfitness.

ICE-CREAM.

The total number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream was 81, this figure includes two manufacturers of the product who use a cold mix.

Three new applications were made during the year and all were granted, subject to compliance with the provisions of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Nine samples of bulk ice-cream and six ice lollies were taken for bacteriological examination from retail shops and stalls. These were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

Premises used for the sale of ice-cream or the manufacture for the purpose of sale, or the storage of ice-cream, must be

registered but the definition "ice-cream" does not cover ice lollies. Therefore, no registration is needed for these premises where childrens lollies are manufactured, in moulds of various shapes, materials and conditions.

Some concern is also felt regarding the cleanliness of the sticks used, but until new legislation is brought into force there does not appear to be any legal control over the small manufacturers of ice lollies or the registration of their premises.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING.

For the year 1956, samples of food and drugs taken for analysis in the Cowes area by the Isle of Wight County Council, who are the Food and Drugs authority, are as follows :—

	Totals.	Unsatisfactory.
Marmalade	1	Nil
Tomato Ketchup	2	Nil
Meat Paste (Chicken)	1	Nil
Butter	1	Nil
Browning	1	Nil
Essence of Rennet	1	Nil
Gravy Powder	1	Nil
Ice-cream	1	Nil
Milk	22	3
	31	3

Unsatisfactory samples.

1. Milk sold contained 4 per cent. added water. Seller warned.
2. Milk sold deficient in fat. Seller prosecuted.
3. Milk sold deficient in fat. Case dismissed.

I am indebted to the Sampling Officers of the Isle of Wight

County Council who are the Food and Drugs authority, for this area, for these figures.

MILK SUPPLIES.

Sixteen persons are registered as Distributors within the area, under the Milk and Dairy Regulations, 1949. Seven of the registrations are for premises where milk is sold in the sealed bottles as delivered to the shop.

Two premises are registered as "dairies".

Licences for the sale of designated milks as requested by the Special Designated Orders were granted in the following:—

To use the Special Designation "Pasteurised". 18 dealers.

To use the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested".

15 dealers.

Where holders of Dealers Licences, authorising them to use the special designation, trade in adjoining areas to that which they are licensed, a further licence is required to be issued.

For that purpose nine supplementary Licences were granted to Dealers whose main Dealers Licences were granted by neighbouring authorities.

All milk sold in this area using the designation "Pasteurised" is heat treated and bottled in the adjoining Borough of Newport.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

In accordance with the above Act, orders can be made through the Ministry specifying areas within which the retail sale of milk will be restricted to the special designated milks. This means that once the Order becomes operative all dairymen must sell their milk under special designation.

This year has seen the initial works put into operation by the Area Milk Officer who, before such an Order is made, has to ensure that an adequate supply of designated milk is available to meet the district's demand.

Co-operation and inspection of records was made available to the Ministry and it is hoped that by 1957 this Order will be passed and come into operation.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

The register of shops, for the year 1956, records 271 shops which are controlled in matters relating to early and general closing hours, conditions of employment, health, and comfort and welfare of workers and Sunday trading, by the Shops Act, 1950; these powers being delegated from the Isle of Wight County Council, in 1953.

Inspections and visits of shops for securing compliance with the provisions related above were less than the previous year by reason of the demand upon the staff, of duties of a more urgent and necessary nature.

No contraventions were found necessary to report to your Council. Occasional complaints were received of shops reported as being open after the permitted closing times, but with inconsistencies and exemptions of certain goods many of the small shops selling a variety of exempted goods, are able to remain open later than the normal hour of 8 o'clock, which is the permitted closing hour of all shops not selling exempted goods.

It is hoped that new legislation which is imminent will iron out these present ambiguities.

WATER SUPPLY

The Isle of Wight Water Board own the water undertakings and maintain the supply of mains water to all domestic dwellings and other consumers both in East and West Cowes.

There are four main sources of water supply to the district —Broadfields Well, Newport Road Reservoirs, East Cowes Well and Carisbrooke Well.

No private wells or other means of supply are now in use for domestic water.

The work of providing and laying the new water main from Carisbrooke to East Cowes was in progress during the year under review. This main will provide a new supply of water to East Cowes and it is hoped it will eventually augment the supplies to West Cowes.

The water at East Cowes for many years has been the source of complaint, being described as one of the most brackish public water supplies in the country.

This new main will need to cross the River Medina which at the proposed point of crossing is approximately 270 yards wide. The entire operations of assembling and laying this under-water pipe line is being carried out by a specialist marine contractor.

All measures are being taken to guard against corrosion and damage and for that purpose a duplicate 12ft. main coated with bituminous compound and reinforced glass fibre is being used. It is hoped that this new service will also serve the new Southern Electricity Board's Generating Station at Kingston, which will be in service by the summer of 1957.

To enable the purity of water supplies to be maintained routine bacteriological examinations were carried out throughout the year. The purpose of such sampling and examination is the detection of faecal pollution and consists of the bacteriologist's search for bacterium coli in the sampled water. If this organism is not found in the water it can with reasonable safety be inferred that disease-producing organisms are also absent. When the water contains large numbers of bacterium coli, dangerous organisms may also be present, and also proves the existence of recent faecal pollution.

Ideally, all waters intended for drinking purposes should show no coliform bacteria in 100 ml. Many natural waters reach this standard, and since by effective treatment this can be attained no chlorinated supply should fail to give this result upon examination. If chlorinated water shows the presence of coliform organisms it would appear that the efficiency of the treatment plant is needing investigation.

The following classification is that used by the Laboratory when classifying the samples of water.

The presence of *Bacterium coli* places the samples in Class 4.

	<i>Coliform count per 100 ml.</i>	<i>Bacterium coli count per ml.</i>
Class 1. H. satisfactory	Nil	Nil
Class 2. Satisfactory	1—2	Nil
Class 3. Suspicious	3—10	Nil
Class 4. Unsatisfactory	Greater than 10	Nil

Throughout the year 50 per cent. of samples should fall into Class 1, 80 per cent. should not fall below Class 2, and the remainder should not fall below Class 3.

For this purpose of ensuring suitable water supplies, a total of 257 bacteriological water samples were taken, 86 of which were taken at source. (Before treatment.)

The results of these examinations by the Public Health Laboratory Service, situated at Ryde, are:—

	<i>Highly sat- isfactory</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Suspi- cious</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>Total Number</i>
Water at source	45	6	30	5	86
Treated water. (Filtration and Chlorination.)	132	12	17	10	171

Of the 171 samples taken from consumers' taps, 84 per cent. were defined as Highly Satisfactory and Satisfactory.

Complaints were received from occupiers of the Arctic Road Council dwellings that water supplied from the mains was a brilliant green in colour.

Chemical water samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst, Portsmouth, who in his report of the sample submitted reported that :—

“ A small amount of suspended matter is present, however, which consists principally of diatoms, some of which are green in colour. In my opinion, the rapid growth of these organisms under favourable conditions, is the likely cause of complaints of green water.

Eradication would probably be effected by dosing the water with copper sulphate to the extent of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 part per million. This amount would not represent any danger to consumers, being equivalent to approximately 0.1 to 0.3 parts per million of copper.”

(Signed). W. B. Chapman.

Deputy Public Analyst.

A copy of this report was forwarded to the Isle of Wight Water Board, and the appropriate treatment taken to remedy the fault.

Two further chemical samples were taken of untreated water from the Broadfields Well, and the Newport Road Reservoirs.

The Analyst's summaries contained within the reports are as follows :—

NEWPORT ROAD FILTER HOUSE.

“ These results indicate that this water contains a trace of organic matter derived from vegetation but is free from recent sewage pollution.

The water is moderately hard, is alkaline in reaction and this sample is free from metallic contamination.

In my opinion, this water is chemically satisfactory for drinking and domestic purposes."

BROADFIELDS WELL

"These results indicate a water of high organic purity free from any recent sewage pollution.

The water is moderately hard and alkaline in reaction and this sample is free from metallic contamination.

In my opinion, this water is chemically satisfactory for drinking and domestic purposes."

(Signed) A. L. WILLIAMS,

Public Analyst.

Only one swimming pool is situated in the Urban area, this being at the Gurnard Pines Holiday Camp, and since this open air pool is in heavy demand during the holiday season, also for instructional purposes for school children, it is desirable and necessary that this swimming bath water should reach the high standard as required of drinking water.

Swimming bath water is liable to be contaminated with organisms coming from the human nose, mouth, skin, also the bowels, and therefore demands constant supervision.

Of samples taken throughout the season and submitted for bacteriological examination, all were reported as satisfactory.

With the circulation and filtration plant installed, routine checks were able to be taken to determine the residual chlorine available in the swimming pool water, and thus ensuring that at all times the plant was working satisfactory.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

This service is the responsibility of your Surveyor who organises regular weekly collections of household refuse.

During peak holiday periods this service is increased and further collections made according to the demand and type of seasonal holiday catering.

All refuse is disposed of by tipping at the Arctic Road and Whippingham sites.

Regular visits are carried out at these tips to ensure the site is free from vermin and insects.

CARAVAN SITES

The popularity of caravan holidays is still on the increase and with housing accommodation still in demand, each year brings new applications for licensing, either of additional caravans for established sites, or individual caravans.

The total number of licensed moveable dwellings within the area is 123. These are divided into four main camps, the remainder being sited individually on land adjoining dwelling houses. Only one unlicensed site operates—that being owned by a travelling showman who claims exemption from the provisions of a licence.

The four principle camps accommodate 111 caravans, all of which have flush sanitation and main water supply, and comply fully with the conditions which were drawn up as a model standard and adopted by the other Local Authorities of the Island.

The 'Twenty Acre' site at Whippingham is a comparatively modern camp and contains in addition to the amenities quoted above, ablutions and bathing facilities, communal clothes washing room, unlimited supplies of hot water, private toilets at the rate of one to five caravans, storage space for trunks and cases, and a camp store for provisions.

With residential sites where the sink unit built into each caravan is used for all purposes and often more than the normal domestic household sink, considerable difficulties are experienced in the disposal of waste water.

The provision of properly trapped gullies connected to main drainage, beneath each moveable dwelling is the answer but with caravan sites of town planning conformity and lay-out, connection to the main drainage system available becomes problematic in the extreme, this being one of the many problems associated with this increasing post-war type of accommodation when used as permanent homes.

COLLECTION OF KITCHEN WASTE

Byelaws were made under the Agricultural (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1954, for regulating the collection of kitchen waste or other waste for use as animal feeding stuffs, and the carriage of waste so collected.

These byelaws came into operation on the 1st April, 1956, and are principally to ensure that no collection is carried out in Bath Road, High Street, Shooters Hill, or Birmingham Road after the hour of 9.0 a.m., also to ensure that no nuisances being caused by smell or the escape of any collected matter.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act is designed to regulate the sale of pets and the prevention of cruelty to pet animals.

The main provision contained within this legislation is that no person shall keep a pet shop without being licensed by the Authority within whose district the premises are situated.

Only one licence was granted during the year and six inspections were made, all of which were satisfactory, and no contraventions found.

**FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS 1944.
URBAN DISTRICT OF COWES.**

Samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is retailed raw without heat treatment. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Winchester, for the presence of live Tubercle Bacilli.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during 1956	...	88
Number of samples found to be positive		Nil
Number of samples in which <i>Brucella Abortus</i> was isolated		3

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.**

There were 219 notifications of infectious diseases, 203 of which were for Measles. There were no cases of Diphtheria.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases among school children.

Mumps		4
Chicken Pox		95
Influenza and Influenza Colds	—	
German Measles		2
Ringworm	—	
Scabies	—	
	—	
		101
	—	

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infec- tion ...	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (includ- ing Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—
Encephalitis ...	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	3	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	203	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	10	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—
Totals ...	219	3	—

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Dysentery	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Meningococcal Infection	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Acute Encephalitis
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	20	—	—	—	—	—
2 „ 3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	22	—	—	—	—	—
3 „ 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	1	—	—
4 „ 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	22	—	—	—	—	—
5 „ 10	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	61	—	—	2	—	—
10 „ 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20 „ 35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 „ 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 „ 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	—	—	—	1	1	10	203	—	—	3	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	Totals.	New Cases				Totals.	Deaths.			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
0 and under 1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 " " 5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 " " 10	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 " " 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 " " 20	4	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 " " 25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 " " 35	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 " " 45	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 " " 55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 " " 65	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...†	14	5	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—

†Included in this total are two transfers from the mainland.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Particulars of the administration of the Factories Act, 1937,
Parts I and VIII administered by the Council.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	79	16	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	2	1	—
Total ...	87	20	6	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5	5	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	1	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	2	2	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient... ..	2	2	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	7	—	2	—
(c) not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	18	18	—	4	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK. (Sections 110 and 111.)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Lampshades	286	—	—	—	—	—
Other classes of work	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	286	—	—	—	—	—





